

important positions: working at Irving Fire Station 2 and serving as captain of Fire Station 1.

A strict routine of great health practices allowed Captain Holder to perform his tasks at the highest possible level of skill, which helped him as the lead man for his shift's Swift Water Rescue Team. His commitment to conditioning, training, firefighting, and enjoying life has been a leading example to all the members of the Irving Fire Department.

In 2005, Captain Holder was honored with a Texas State Proclamation and the city of Irving declared December 1st "Shakey Holder Day" in recognition of his outstanding service. In 2006, Captain Holder received The "Shakey" Gene Holder Lifetime Achievement Award, named after him for his lifetime dedication to the Irving Fire Department as a front-line firefighter. In 2010, he received the Fire Chief Award, and in the spring of 2011, the captain was recognized at the Texas State Capital for his 55 years of service.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Holder for his years of public service to the city of Irving.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, September 20, 2011, I missed rollcall votes numbered 712, 713, and 714. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2944, the United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2011, "aye" on H.R. 2189, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2011 and "aye" on H.R. 2646, to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ON THE REPEAL OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Today, we are one step closer to our nation's promise of liberty and justice for all people. The repeal of this misguided policy has ensured that our country's laws are applied equally and that gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve their country. It will also enhance our national security.

As a member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I believe that one of my most important jobs is to ensure that the U.S. armed forces remain the best equipped, best prepared, and most powerful in the world. By sending home more than 13,500 motivated and qualified patriotic service members since 1994, who were willing and fit to serve this

country, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" has without a doubt weakened our military. I was privileged to have had the opportunity to vote in favor of its repeal.

Today, all those in our society who are ready, able, and willing to serve in the U.S. military will be guaranteed their right to do so. The U.S. Constitution, specifically the 14th Amendment, requires the government to apply our laws equally. Now, only negative conduct, not one's sexual orientation, will be grounds for dismissal from our nation's military. Investing many millions of dollars to train these individuals and then dismissing them, in the absence of bad conduct, has wasted many millions of precious taxpayer dollars and compromised our national security.

As we celebrate this major milestone, many formerly discharged service members will re-enter the armed services to serve alongside their friends and military family. We must ensure that the U.S. military treats all of our service members equally. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals must have access to the same rights as their heterosexual peers. Anything less is unacceptable and utterly un-American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent for legislative business on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 712–714. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: Rollcall 712–H.R. 2944, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, "yes"; rollcall 713–H.R. 2189, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, "yes"; rollcall 714–H.R. 2646, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, "yes."

CELEBRATING THE RELOCATION OF METROCREST SOCIAL SERVICES RESALE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the relocation of the Metrocrest Social Services Resale facility. From its humble beginnings in 1971, this organization has exemplified charity and service throughout its rich history in the Metrocrest community.

Metrocrest Social Services opened its doors in Farmers Branch as the TRUTH House, serving underprivileged teens. By 1984, the nonprofit organization changed its name to Metrocrest Social Services and expanded its operations, volunteer base, and geographic areas served. Today, Metrocrest Social Services has established itself as a vital part of the Metrocrest community, providing emergency assistance and beneficial programs to move families toward self-sufficiency. Metrocrest Social Services serves the residents of Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Addison, Coppell

and parts of Dallas. During 2010, the organization assisted 12,052 individuals with one or more services.

In 1989, the first Metrocrest Thrift Store opened in the Old Carrollton Square to help people receive clothing, household goods, and support. In 2002, the Thrift Store relocated to Beltline Road and Josey Lane. The new 8,238 square foot Metrocrest Resale facility, located at Midway Road and Trinity Mills Road, will continue to support day-to-day operations of Metrocrest Social Services and its mission to prevent homelessness in the Metrocrest community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Metrocrest Social Services as they relocate their Resale facility. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Metrocrest Social Services for its faithful service to our community.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION'S BREAST CANCER DEADLINE 2020

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I have pledged my strong support for the goals of the National Breast Cancer Coalition's, NBCC, newly launched initiative, Breast Cancer Deadline 2020, and I encourage all of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to join me. This initiative represents an historic commitment to dedicating the resources, expertise, and strategic planning we need to end breast cancer, once and for all. Breast cancer has affected too many of my constituents, family members, and friends to count, and caused far too much heartache. We can no longer tolerate stagnant rates of incidence and mortality. We must generate the will, and the investment we need, to eliminate breast cancer within the next decade.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition assures us that this goal is within reach, but it will require strategy and wisdom to attain. That is why NBCC has developed a multi-faceted strategy that has the potential to deliver the results we have been waiting for. The Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 plan includes a strong focus on science and research, with an emphasis on metastasis and primary prevention. The plan also includes a role for government; key players will convene to identify the most effective role for government to play in supporting research and health care. NBCC will release annual progress reports on the state of its work, and set forth guidance for the coming year. Alongside these strategic efforts, NBCC will engage in a large-scale effort to change the conversation surrounding breast cancer and engage the public to build momentum for the campaign.

NBCC's Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 campaign holds the promise of a new and improved approach to ending breast cancer. This is not an easy task, but with this kind of renewed energy and commitment, I have faith that we can get the job done. I know that the National Breast Cancer Coalition will wage a smart, well-organized fight in the next few years. I look forward to doing whatever I can to lend my voice and support for this campaign.